

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 08511 072308Z

17

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

OMB-01 MCT-01 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 DHA-02 /080 W

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R 072220Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2440

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 8511

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, EC

SUBJECT: POVEDA WARNS AGAINST EXTREMIST GROUPS

1. ADMIRAL ALFREDO POVEDA, PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT, SPOKE IN QUITO ON DEC. 6 DURING THE CEREMONIES HONORING THE FOUNDATION OF THE CITY OF QUITO. HE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO EMPHASIZE THE DETERMINATION OF THE ARMED FORCES TO TURN OVER THE GOVERNMENT TO CIVILIANS (THE "RETORNO") TO ATTACK EXTREMIST GROUPS WHO MAY INTERFERE WITH OR SUBVERT THE RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE, AND TO ADVOCATE A RESTRUCTURE OF ECUADOREAN POLITICAL PARTIES.

2. A LARGE PART OF POVEDA'S SPEECH WAS DEVOTED TO WARNING AGAINST THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF "EXTREMIST GROUPS" AND "INTEREST GROUPS." POVEDA CHARACTERIZED THESE GROUPS AS SEDITIONOUS, AND SAID THAT THEY WERE WORKING FOR ANARCHY AND AGAINST THE RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL CIVILIAN RULE.

3. COMMENT: THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT IS LATELY SHOWING ITSELF TO BE EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO ANY CRITICISM OF ITS "RETORNO" PLAN AND PROFESSES TO INTERPRET ANY SUCH CRITICISM AS COMING FROM EXTREMIST GROUPS. IT IS INCREASINGLY PRONE TO JUSTIFY ITS ARBITRARINESS IN JAILING DISSENTERS BY CLAIMING TO PROTECT THE DEMOCRATIC FUTURE.
BLOOMFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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